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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 20 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to inform you that Israel has again forcibly expelled Palestinians to Lebanese territory in an illegal manner across the international frontier, using for that purpose the so-called "security zone" it occupies in southern Lebanon in order to implement its aggressive policy.

On Saturday afternoon, 18 May 1991, an Israeli military helicopter transported four Palestinians from the occupied Gaza strip to the so-called "security zone" in southern Lebanon, whence they were taken in two civilian cars to the Lebanese army checkpoint at Marj el-Zouhour in the southern Bekaa Valley. The names and ages of the expelled Palestinians are: Jamal Yassine (33), Mouin Mohamad Moussallem (31), Hashem Dahlan (31) and Jamal A. Abou Jdayan (33).

The Lebanese Government vigorously condemns the Israeli policy of expelling and deporting Palestinians, which is contrary to article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the forcible deportation of civilians from occupied territory, and reiterates its objection to the violation by Israel of Lebanese sovereignty and territory by its practices which are counter to the Charter of the United Nations and the laws of human rights, and in particular, Security Council resolutions 607 (1988), 608 (1988), 636 (1989) and 641 (1989).

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* A/46/50.

Furthermore, the Lebanese Government is concerned to draw the attention of the international community to the fact that, at a time when it is endeavouring to extend its authority to all its territory by applying the document of national conciliation, Israel is doing its utmost to obstruct the progress of salvation within Lebanon through its aggressive acts and its illegal practices. This makes it necessary to redouble efforts to enforce Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which calls upon Israel to withdraw and the Lebanese Government to extend its authority to its international boundaries.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative